

WHAT IS CLAIMED

1. A method in a communication device, comprising:
transmitting a signaling connection establishment message on a radio
5 connection, the signaling connection establishment message including a registration
request message;
receiving a registration accept message on the radio connection; and
transmitting an uplink signaling message on the radio connection, the
uplink signaling message including a core network operator identifier.
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2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the uplink signaling
message comprises a non-access stratum signaling message.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the uplink signaling
15 message includes a domain identity.
4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the domain identity
comprises at least one of a packet switched domain indicator and a circuit switched
domain indicator.
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5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the signaling connection
establishment message comprises an initial core network signaling message.
6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the registration request
25 message includes a desired core network operator identifier.
7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the registration accept
message includes an assigned core network operator identifier.
8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the core network operator
30 identifier comprises a public land mobile network identity including a mobile country
code and a mobile network code.

9. A method in a mobile communication device, comprising:
receiving a system information broadcast message;
requesting a radio connection;
receiving a grant of a radio connection;
5 transmitting a signaling connection establishment message on the radio
connection, the signaling connection establishment message including a registration
request message;
receiving a registration accept message on the radio connection; and
transmitting an uplink signaling message on the radio connection, the
10 uplink signaling message including a core network operator identifier.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the uplink signaling
message comprises a non-access stratum signaling message.

15 11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the signaling connection
establishment message comprises an initial core network signaling message.

12. A method for routing messages in a network, comprising:
receiving radio connection request message;
20 sending a radio connection grant message;
receiving a signaling connection establishment message including a
registration request message;
sending a registration accept message; and
receiving an uplink signaling message, the uplink signaling message
25 including a core network operator identifier.

13. The method according to claim 12, further comprising determining
whether the mobile communication device can receive a core network operator
identifier in a registration accept message.

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14. The method according to claim 12, further comprising sending a
registration denial message, the registration denial message including a forbidden core
network operator identifier.

15. The method according to claim 12, further comprising sending a radio system broadcast message.

5 16. The method according to claim 12, wherein the uplink signaling message comprises a non-access stratum signaling message.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein the uplink signaling message includes a domain identity.

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18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the domain identity comprises at least one of a packet switched domain indicator and a circuit switched domain indicator.

15 19. The method according to claim 12, wherein the signaling connection establishment message comprises an initial core network signaling message.

20. The method according to claim 12, wherein the registration request message includes a desired core network operator identifier.

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21. The method according to claim 12, wherein the registration accept message includes an assigned core network operator identifier.

22. The method according to claim 12, wherein the core network operator identifier comprises a public land mobile network identity including a mobile country code and a mobile network code.

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23. The method according to claim 12, further comprising:
forwarding the non-access stratum signaling message to a first core
network operator when the non-access stratum signaling message is a circuit switched
5 message; and
forwarding the forwarding the non-access stratum signaling message to
a second core network operator when the non-access stratum signaling message is a
packet switched message.

10 24. A mobile communication device, comprising:
a transceiver;
a controller coupled to the transceiver, the controller configured to
control the operations of the mobile communication device; and
a signaling message module coupled to the controller, the signaling
15 message module configured to transmit a signaling connection establishment message
on a radio connection, the signaling connection establishment message including a
registration request message, receive a registration accept message on the radio
connection, and transmit an uplink signaling message on the radio connection, the
uplink signaling message including a core network operator identifier.

20 25. The mobile communication device according to claim 24, wherein the
uplink signaling message comprises a non-access stratum signaling message and a
domain identity, the domain identity comprising at least one of a packet switched
domain indicator and a circuit switched domain indicator.

25 26. The mobile communication device according to claim 25, wherein the
signaling connection establishment message comprises an initial core network
signaling message.

27. A method for routing messages in a network, comprising:
receiving radio connection request message;
sending a radio connection grant message;
5 receiving a signaling connection establishment message including a
registration request message;
selecting a core network from a plurality of core networks to process
the registration message; and
sending a registration accept message.
- 10 28. The method in claim 27, wherein the selecting step includes,
selecting a core network from a plurality of core networks in a random
manner.
- 15 29. The method in claim 27, wherein the selecting step includes,
selecting a core network from a plurality of core networks in a round
robin manner.
- 20 30. The method in claim 27, wherein the selecting step includes,
selecting a core network from a plurality of core networks for an
indicated domain identity.
- 25 31. A method in a mobile communication device, comprising:
receiving a system information broadcast message;
transmitting a signaling connection establishment message, the
signaling connection establishment message including a registration request message;
receiving a registration accept message; and
transmitting an uplink signaling message, the uplink signaling message
including a core network operator identifier.
- 30 32. The method according to claim 31, wherein the uplink signaling
message includes a domain identity, the domain identity comprising at least one of a
packet switched domain indicator and a circuit switched domain indicator.

33. A method in a communication device, comprising:
transmitting a signaling connection establishment message on a
connection, the signaling connection establishment message including a registration
5 request message;
receiving a registration accept message on the connection; and
transmitting an uplink signaling message on the connection, the uplink
signaling message including a core network operator identifier.
- 10 34. The method according to claim 33, wherein the uplink signaling
message comprises a non-access stratum signaling message.
35. The method according to claim 34, wherein the uplink signaling
message includes a domain identity.
- 15 36. The method according to claim 35, wherein the domain identity
comprises at least one of a packet switched domain indicator and a circuit switched
domain indicator.
- 20 37. The method according to claim 36, wherein the signaling connection
establishment message comprises an initial core network signaling message.
38. The method according to claim 33, wherein the registration request
message includes a desired core network operator identifier.
- 25 39. The method according to claim 33, wherein the registration accept
message includes an assigned core network operator identifier.